THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The sanctioned electrification works being executed by Baroda Railway Electrification Organisation are being completed and there are no new sanctioned works in the Western Railway area.

(c) Employees who have given their wilingness to serve in other electrification projects will be considered for transfer to the extent vacancies are available in those projects. Othrs will be repatriated to the open line Railway wherefrom they were temporarily drafted to work in he Railway Electrificaton Project.

NConstruction of Railway Bridge over Ganga river in Bihar

1286. SHRI ASS MOHAMMAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whther a scheme for the construction of a railway bridge over Ganga river from Pahleja to Digha (Bihar) for linking North Bihar with Patna is pending since two decades;

(b) whether Government propose to construct this bridge in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A survey for a rail bridge across River Ganga near Patna was conducted in Feb. 91. The survey report revealed that the cost of the bridge would be about Rs. 468 crores with a negative rate of return. In view of the unremunerative nature of the project coupled with huge investment involved, when the railways are faced with a resource crunch, construction of the bridge cannot be considered at present.

Rush in Bihar bound trains

†1287. SHRI AAS MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a greater rush in the trains bound for Bihar compared to trains to other areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof. and

(c) what efforts have been made by Government to run more trains for Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). There is overcrowding on certain occasions such as summer holidays, Diwali and Holi festivals, marriage season, etc.on number of sections in trains of India Railways incuding Bihar bound trains.

(c) The new Express train services introduced in 1994-95 which serve the passengers of Bihar include :

1. Katihar-Sealdah Express
2. Delhi - Muzaffarpur -Samastipur Express (4 days a week)
3. New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express (weekly)
4. New Delhi-Bhubaneshwar Rajdhani Express (weekly)

Besides, frequency of the following trains has also been increased to provide more capacity for Bihar bound passengers:—

1. New Delhi-Puri Purushottam Exprss from tri-weekly to 5 days a week.
2. Indore-Howrah Shipra Express from bi-weekly to tri-weekly.
3. Gwalior-Howrah Chambal Express from bi-weekly to tri-weekly.